



California Foster Care Month Calendar 2008

April 29

Foster Parent – Relative – Social Worker Appreciation Dinner – A special way for social workers, foster parents, and relative care providers to honor one another and say “thank you” for improving the lives of children in the Redding community. Contact: Wanda Lamb at 530-225-5858

May 1

Foster Youth Leadership Awards – Awards night for young leaders in the local foster care community. A collaborative event organized by Honoring Emancipated Youth (HEY). San Francisco Human Services Agency Building, 170 Otis Born Auditorium, San Francisco. Contact: Sara Razavi at 415-808-4435 or srazavi@uwba.org

May 2 – 16

Heart Gallery – Art exhibit from nine counties will be displayed on the Governor’s Office Wall at the California State Capitol. Contact: Gail Johnson Vaughan gail@missionfocused.org

May 3

Foster Awareness Basketball Benefit – Boys and Girls High School All-Star Basketball Game fundraiser for the Casey Great Start Flex Funds Program, and to raise awareness of the needs of foster youth. 4:30 pm at Capital Christian High School, Sacramento. Contact: Brian Mitchell at 916-698-8687 or bmitchell@sanjuan.edu

Home Improvement: Building Your Family’s Tool Box - 11th Annual Orange County Conference for Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Families. Hyatt Regency, Anaheim. Contact: Karen Pinkerton at 714-940-3975

Big Sunday Los Angeles 9am-noon - Join current and former foster youth, parents, caregivers, Mentors, CASA, and attorneys to help re-plant the burn areas at Griffith Park in Los Angeles. All are welcome to stay for fun and food at picnic to immediately follow. Contact: www.bigsunday.org
Emily Larson at Emily@unitedfriends.org

Luggage Round Up Los Angeles - collection of new and gently used luggage to be distributed to foster youth. Bel Air Presbyterian Church

May 4

Luggage Round Up Los Angeles collection of new and gently used luggage to be distributed to foster youth. Temple Israel in Hollywood

May 5

National Foster Care Month Kick-Off Reception – A reception hosted by Casey Family Programs & the California Alliance of Child and Family Services for advocates of foster care. 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the California State Capitol Basement Rotunda, Sacramento. Contact: April Cowe at acowe@casey.org or 916-503-2950.



2008 California Foster Youth Education Summit “Building on our Successes” The summit brings forth the most promising practices among child welfare, education, the courts, policymakers, foster youth, families and caregivers that reflect successful implementation and educational success for foster youth. From 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at California State Health Building, 1500 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento. Contact: Jackie Wong at 916-327-5930 or jawong@cde.ca.gov

May 6

California Capitol Kick-Off – 4th annual California Capitol event honoring individuals, innovative programs and partnerships that are changing the lives of the 75,000 foster youth in California today. All-day event on the North Steps of the State Capitol Building, Sacramento. Contact: Cathy Murnighan at 916-202-5105 or c.murnighan@comcast.net

Sacramento County Foster Parent Association Walk Me Home...to the Place I Belong - America's only nationwide walk for foster care. 5K fundraiser to raise awareness of and honor foster families in America. Registration begins at 8 a.m., starts at State Capitol (corner of 11th Street and L), Sacramento. Contact: Myrna Terry at 916-681-5059 or xazuke@hotmail.com

Resolution from Yolo County – Resolution Declaring May 2008 as Foster Parent Appreciation Month by the Yolo County Board of Supervisors. Erwin Meier Administration Building, 725 Court Street, Woodland. Contact: Julliana Shon at 530-666-8488

Proclamation – Foster Care Month Proclamation by Imperial County Board of Supervisors. Contact: Mickey Castro at mc135y@cws.state.ca.us

May 7

Speed Networking 9:30 am Registration - Pasadena Networking event to celebrate Foster Care Awareness Month and develop connections with agencies and programs throughout the community. Contact: Virginia Culbertson (626) 229-3742 or Kimala Lewis (626) 229-3521.

May 8

Honoring Emancipated Youth (HEY) Foster Youth Connections Breakfast – A special breakfast honoring those who make a positive change for current and former foster care youth. The Palace Hotel, 2 New Montgomery, San Francisco. Contact: Sara Razavi at 415-808-4435 or srazavi@uwba.org

Annual Foster Parent Recognition Dinner – Napa County Health & Human Services honors its foster parents. The dinner event starts at 5:30 p.m. at the Hillside Christian Church, Napa. Contact: Linda Canan at 707-299-2115 or lcanaan@co.napa.ca.us

Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner – Honoring the patience, love, and support that Yolo County licensed foster family homes provide to foster children. Hosted by Yolo County DESS, Child Welfare Services, in collaboration with Woodland Community College Foster and Kinship Care Education Program and Yolo County Children's Alliance. Erwin Meier Administration Building Atrium, 725 Court Street, Woodland. Contact: Julliana Shon at 530-666-8488

May 8-18

“Someone’s Somebody” - A one-woman play written and performed by foster care alumna, Regina Louise. Thursday-Saturday at 7 pm, Sunday at 3 pm. University of Philosophical Research, 3910 Los Felix Blvd., Los Angeles. For tickets: www.sstproductions.org or contact Joni Byun at joni@nakatomipr.com



May 9

47th Annual Foster Parent Appreciation Banquet – Dinner and awards ceremony honoring six Above and Beyond foster families, Foster Family of the Year, and 150 foster families who have served as licensed foster parents in increments of five years. Handlery Hotel, San Diego. Contact: Ann Fox at 858-616-5911

Blooming in Imperial Valley – Annual May Foster Care Symposium and Appreciation Luncheon. Keynote addresses by Former foster youth and workshops facilitated by county partners. Recognition will be given to a foster and relative caregiver, ILP youth children Children's staff. Contact: Mickey Castro at mc135y@cws.state.ca.us

May 10

Hit a Homerun for Foster Youth – San Diego Foster Care Coalition event a San Diego Padres home game includes attendance of over 100 foster family members, community booth display and scoreboard shout-outs throughout the month of May. Tickets for the families were generously donated by Sony as a partner with Casey and the San Diego Foster Care Coalition. Casey Family Programs also placed a full page ad celebrating National Foster Care month in the Padres Magazine which will be distributed to half a million fans in San Diego during the month of May. Game is at 7pm at Petco Field, San Diego. Contact: Melanie Lococo at 619-683-5657 or mlococo@casey.org

The Difference Between Triumph and Tragedy – The Janiva Magness Story – A special training sponsored by the Bakersfield College Foster & Kinship Care Education Program. National Foster Care Month spokesperson and award winning blues artist, Janiva Magness, shares her amazing foster care story. 5:30 pm at Coconut Joe's Private Beach Club, 4000 Easton Drive, Unit 2, Bakersfield. Contact: Opal Morland at 661-631-6364 or Gayla Gibson at 661-631-6494

Community Connections – Information meeting on foster care. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Stanford Home for Children, 4612 Roseville Road, Suite 107, North Highlands. Contact: Sandra Jones at 916-344-0199 ext. 248

Voices of Foster Youth 2008 – A day of free carnival fun including games, prizes, music, food, and community and job resources. A collaborative event organized by Honoring Emancipated Youth (HEY). Justin Herman Plaza (at the foot of Market Street at the Embarcadero across from the San Francisco Ferry Building), San Francisco. Contact: Sara Razavi at 415-808-4435 or srazavi@uwba.org

May 12 & 14

California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care Public Hearings – Two public hearings to solicit public comment on the commission's draft recommendations to improve foster care outcomes. May 12 in the Los Angeles Ronald Reagan Federal Building and May 14 in San Francisco's Administrative Office of the Courts. Draft recommendations are open for public comment through May 13 on the commission's Web site www.courtinfo.ca.gov/blueribbon. Contact: Megan Lafrenz at 415-865-8998 or megan.lafrenz@jud.ca.gov

May 13

Foster Family Day at the Game – One hundred foster family participants attend the San Diego State University Aztec baseball game. Tony Gwynn Stadium, San Diego. Contact: Ann Fox at 858-616-5911



Foster Care Month Proclamation – San Joaquin County receives a proclamation from the Board of Supervisors. Contact: Dave Erb at erbdav@cws.state.ca.us

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Ceremony to honor the 2008 Foster Care Heroes.

May 14

Resource Family Appreciation Day – Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, community members, and staff from Family & Children's Services Division acknowledge resource families for all they do for children in foster care in the County. The event is co-sponsored by Cabrillo College Foster & Kinship Care Education Program. A proclamation from the Board of Supervisors will be issued. Seascape Golf Club, 610 Clubhouse Drive, Aptos. Contact: Linda Kerner at 831-454-4897 or linda.kerner@hsd.co.santa-cruz.ca.us

May 15

Foster Parent BBQ – Honoring Glenn County's wonderful foster parents. 5:30 to 8 pm at Lely Aquatic Park, Orland.

Appreciation Dinner and Awards Ceremony for Stanislaus County Foster Parents – A night of recognition and appreciation for Stanislaus County foster parents, kinship caregivers, and adoptive parents. Doubletree Hotel, Modesto. Contact: Amie Prutch at 209-558-3893

Foster Youth Job Shadow Day – Foster youth in Sacramento and Los Angeles will spend a day in a real workplace and experience what working in a professional environment is like. Sacramento contact: DeWayne Norris at (916) 916-503-2953 or dnorris@casey.org. Los Angeles contacts: Pat Salcido at 323-980-5720/ salcidop@clcla.org or Jody Green at 323-980-1552/greenj@clcla.org.

20th Annual Let's Talk Conference – Fresno County

This annual conference and awards ceremony brings child welfare staff and resource family providers together to discuss issues and practices related to children in out of home care. This year Dr. Lorraine E. Fox will be presenting the effects of children with multiple placements and the impact of grief and loss that many of our children feel throughout placement. Lunch will be provided. Contact: Lydia Johnson at 559.262.4326 or ljohnson@co.fresno.ca.us.

May 16

Annual Foster Parent Recognition – Holbrook Palmer Park, San Mateo. Contact: Pravin Patel at 650-802-5017 or patelp@co.sanmateo.ca.us

Art and Poetry Submission Deadline – "Blooming in Imperial Valley" art and poetry by foster children and youth. Judging in different categories will take place the following week. Contact: Mickey Castro at mc135y@cws.state.ca.us

May 17

Appreciation Picnic for Foster, Adoptive & Kinship Parents – Sponsored by Placer Kids, Placer County Foster & Adoptive Association, and Kinship Support Services. 11 am to 2 pm at Meadow Vista Park. Contact: Marilyn Webb at 530-886-2893 or mwebb@placer.ca.gov

Sacramento Child Advocates 4th Annual Wine and Dine Event for Children – CSU Sacramento Grand Ballroom, 5:30 pm. Contact: www.sacchildadv.org or Katie Walker (916) 364-2365



1st Annual Foster Parent Appreciation Month Car Wash – Fresno County

The child welfare staff will be recognizing foster parents by providing a Car Wash service. Foster parents will have the opportunity to connect with child welfare staff at the event where lunch and activities for children will also be provided. Visits from the Fresno Fire Department, D.A.R.E and the Chaffee Zoo are expected. Contact: Lydia Johnson at 559.262.4326 or ljohnson@co.fresno.ca.us

May 21

Appreciation Pizza Party – Honoring the licensed foster families and children of San Joaquin County. Contact: Dave Erb at erbdav@cws.state.ca.us

May 22

Independent Living Program Graduation – Foster youth and former foster youth awarded scholarships.

May 28

Blooming in Imperial Valley – Reception recognizing the accomplishments of Foster children and youth. Art and Poetry entries will be on display and winners awarded stipends in different age categories. Contact: Mickey Castro at mc135y@cws.state.ca.us

May 29

Foster Care Awareness information fair at Harbor UCLA Medical Hub (Heart Gallery)

May 30

Options Foster Parent Luncheon and Training – Presentation by well-known infant mental health and early intervention specialist, Dr. Connie Lillas, Handlery Hotel, San Diego. Contact: Ann Fox at 858-616-5911

May 31

Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner and Dance – Riverside County The event features keynote speaker Michael Sanders and music by the John Larkin Band. From 6 to 10 p.m. at the South Coast Winery Resort and Spa. Contact: Gary Knapp at 951-358-4067